

HPAI Response

USDA Authorization for Response and Associated Activities

April 8, 2022

Please note: These procedures may be revised as the situation develops.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This document provides guidance on USDA authorization for response and associated activities for initial (index case) and subsequent detections of H5 HPAI in commercial and backyard flocks within a State or Territory. Additional policy and guidance documents can be found at www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep. HPAI-specific materials can be found on the [HPAI FAD PReP site](#), along with a [New State Checklist](#) to support newly affected States during response activities.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

The first (index) case of H5 HPAI in any State or Territory in 2022 will need USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) confirmation for USDA authorization of response and associated activities, including indemnity and compensation for depopulation and disposal.

For additional or subsequent cases of H5 HPAI in a State or Territory in 2022, when the criteria for an HPAI presumptive positive case (case-compatible clinical signs and NAHLN H5 non-negative) have been met, USDA will authorize response and associated activities, including indemnity and compensation for depopulation and disposal.

Inventory information must be provided to USDA prior to the initiation of depopulation activities, including completion and submission of all applicable appendices ([1H](#), [2A](#), [2B](#)). Instructions and guidance on how to fill out the applicable appendices is available in the [Overview of Finance and Administration procedures](#) document.

All NAHLN non-negative test results (any rRT-PCR Ct detection) will be subsequently confirmed by NVSL.

The APHIS Administrator or VS Deputy Administrator (Chief Veterinary Officer [CVO] of the United States) can authorize APHIS personnel—in conjunction with State, Tribal, and unified IC personnel—to initiate biosecurity, depopulation, disposal, and virus elimination procedures.